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BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18, 1895.

The Roads Amendment.

The Democrats of Goochland county have declared against the roads amendment.

From time out of mind almost, up to a recent period, it was the custom in Virginia to exact each year of male citizens between certain ages a few days' labor on the public roads. At last, however, some one who was called upon for this service refused to render it, and the question was brought into the courts.

The result was that our old Court of Appeals declared that that provision of our general road-law was unconstitutional, null, and void. Thereupon our General Assembly, at its last session, passed a resolution proposing that our State Constitution be so amended as to empower the General Assembly to pass laws requiring men to work upon the roads not exceeding two days in any one year.

The General Assembly which is to meet in December next must concur in this resolution before the vote of the people can be taken on the proposed amendment. We judge that the Goochland delegate will vote against submitting the question to the people. And it may be doubted, should the amendment be submitted, whether the masses will vote in favor of subjecting themselves to this tax. The negroes, to a man nearly, will vote against it, and the indications are that not a few whites will do likewise.

And yet in Southside and Tidewater Virginia, and in some other localities, there is a large class of voters who enjoy all the privileges of our public schools, and all the advantages of government, without contributing anything to the support of either. If they cannot be reached by a law which demands of them work on the roads, they cannot be reached at all. Then, as now, they will escape all taxation.

No doubt the labor thus rendered is imperfect and unsatisfactory, but it is better than no labor at all, and there are many States of the Union which still exact this sort of service from their citizens.

But every county that expects to have really good roads might as well conclude that to get them taxes will have to be laid to raise the money for the purpose. Forced labor has never yet given any county a good system of roads. Nor can the counties generally rely upon getting penitentiary convicts to do their work. There are not enough convicts to go around to all the counties, and if there were, the State Treasury would be called upon to bear the cost of the support of these convicts, whereas the penitentiary is now self-supporting.

No doubt the only way for our people to secure a good road system is to agree to be taxed to raise the money; therefore to raise the money to build good roads, and to keep them in good order by daily and hourly attention to repairs, etc.

Meanwhile, however, now that Goochland has led the way, we expect that numbers of other counties will express themselves on the roads amendment.

The Republicans Coming Together.

The Republican leagues or clubs of Pennsylvania which met in State Convention in York passed a resolution recognizing Mr. Quay as "the boss" of the Pennsylvania Republicans. It was voted as follows:

"We endorse the action of the late State Convention in selecting that gallant leader, Senator Matthew S. Quay, for chairman of the State Committee."

Not a word is said as to Senator Cameron, to whom Mr. Quay is reported to be disposed to turn a deaf ear.

It has been only a short time since the Republican State Convention was held in Pennsylvania. Nevertheless, we will give the main plank in the platform adopted by the convention of leagues last week. These leagues are a power in the land, and command a great deal of attention from Maine to California. The Pennsylvania leagues resolved as follows in stating what they favored:

"A protective tariff, reciprocity, fair elections, honest money, the permanent betterment of the highways of the State, no destruction of industries; no failure in revenue to support the National Government; no discrediting the flag; no betrayal of the interests of the Union soldiers."

First, we have demand for a protective tariff, and then for reciprocity. But reciprocity is Democratic doctrine, and inconsistent with the doctrine of protection.

It is enough to cause us here in Virginia to smile to see the Republicans of Pennsylvania, who have had control of that State for so many years, calling for "honest money" and "fair elections."

Such a declaration from such a source requires no comment. "No destruction of industries" means, we suppose, the same as a demand for a protective tariff. No failure in revenue to support the National Government is a hit at Mr. Carlisle's financial troubles; but as these were caused by the Supreme Court's decision against the income-tax, the Democrats cannot be held responsible for them. "No discrediting the flag" and "no betrayal of

the interests of the Union soldiers" may pay for what they are worth.

As to the declaration in favor of "honest money," it is important as indicating that the Democratic party will be confronted with that question all over the Union. It has already been settled for the Democracy in States enough to entitle the Democratic party to see that they would stand no chance whatever to go into a battle against "honest money."

Shall we in Virginia take up this issue when the Democrats of so many other States are just laying it down?

Sound Money.

Whilst the people are divided them-selves into two factions on the currency question, and one of these factions declares everywhere and on every occasion for "sound money." It may be well to ascertain what sort of money or currency is intended to be described by that phrase. Unless the voters can agree as to what is meant by these two words, they cannot agree in their declarations upon the currency question. Here, for example, is an ingenious paragraph on this point taken from the New York Sun:

"A sound-money dollar is one which will not only pay 100 cents' worth of debts, but buy 100 cents' worth of property and of commodities. The working man, daily or weekly wages, do not usually have debts to pay, but extend the money received in buying food, fuel, and clothing. When they go to the grocery, or the bakers' shop, or the dry-goods store, the dollars they offer are not accepted at their debt-paying value, but at their value reckoned in the markets of the world. Purchasing power, and not debt-paying power, is the test of sound money."

By "purchasing power" is not meant the same thing as the power of paying debts. Purchasing power is the power to buy something not in the hands of the purchaser. Debt-paying power is the power to pay for an article previously purchased, or in a word, the power to pay debts. The gold dollar will either pay debts or for purchases just made. The Sun further says:

"Legislation can make any kind of a dollar of equal power in the payment of debts with every other dollar. All through the war and for many years afterward it made a paper dollar worth from 40 to 75 cents, according to the fluctuations of the day, just as good for debt-paying purposes as coin. Silver dollars, coined in unlimited quantities, and worth as bullion 50 cents or less, can be made to pay debts as well as gold dollars."

That is to say, legislation is a potent factor in providing by law what sort of money or currency may be used in paying debts already contracted, but is powerless when money having purchasing power of its own is needed.

The point we would make is that local conventions or State conventions of either party should not so frame their resolutions as to leave the impression upon the minds of their readers that "sound money" and currency made passable by law are exactly the same thing.

Silver and Our Primary.

You can't down the currency question. The Dispatch tried very hard to keep it out of the county conventions, but was not able. It is a living issue, and nobody can or should dodge it. It is the duty of every public man to speak out and declare his views as to free coinage, and the State is determined if it can to draw out every man who aspires to be a leader, that they are entitled to a new trial.

Not at all; the Court, in granting its writ of error, simply stays the execution of the women's sentences (although one of the women is in the penitentiary), and agrees that it will at some future day hear argument as to the claim of the prisoners that they are entitled to a new trial.

But, should a new trial be granted them, it would be equivalent to an acquittal, since durable, having been sentenced, is now disqualified by law from testifying against them.

According to the sentence of the Lunenburg County Court, Marable is to be hanged on Friday. There has been no stay of sentence as to him. The Hon. George D. Wise and his associates are counsel for the women, not for Marable. Furthermore, Marable has made a public confession, whereas the women have always asserted their innocence.

Though Marable has told two or three different stories, he has always admitted that he held and choked Mrs. Pollard while the death-blow was given her; but in his "white-man story" he maintains that what he thus did to Mrs. Pollard was done under duress.

The Weather.

The times are out of joint, and the forces of earth and air seem to be in the same fix, says the Augusta (Ga.) Constitutional, and the statement will be pronounced true by a multitude of persons. There is something peculiar in the atmospheric conditions which surround us. If such conditions have ever before existed, "the oldest inhabitant" would be unwilling to risk his reputation for veracity by telling when these conditions obtained. We are all weak on the "weather side," but there must be some limit to that sort of weakness. Time will tell the true story.

The Word Clever.

(Norfolk Landmark)

The Idle Reporter in the Richmond Dispatch sometimes makes a timely point while poking his gushing, irresponsible, inexpressible fun. He has certainly done so in the following instance. Ridicule is the most effective means of putting a stock to extraneous talk. In the first place, if there is any extravagance in language, it is true, it is true of "clever." His comprehensive application is imported English, and it is employed to express, in its fine, about as many different things as the British "nasty," from the spread of which the gods defend us, but we must give the Idle Reporter a chance.

Some man who loves to read the dictionary, and who takes pleasure in calling people down on technicalities, would do me a great favor if he would tell me just what the word "clever" means. I am not come to the conclusion that it signifies everything on earth. This little bird dropped down into my nestbox about six or seven years ago, after it had been in disease for ages, and since then it has popped up on every occasion. They tell me about clever speeches and clever people, and clever this and clever that, until I think everything on earth is clever, myself. The other day, when I went into a clothing store to buy some "gentleman's furnishings" the man said to me a clever customer. I asked him if he had any idea of what he meant by "clever." He said, "Well, I mean the word means possessing skill, dexterity, artfulness." Wish you could have seen the look of the gods defend us, but we must give the Idle Reporter a chance.

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The preparations for the dedication of the National Military Park at Chickamauga, upon which about \$25,000 have been spent by the United States Government and various States, cause many persons to enquire as to the results of that great battle. Most of our young people know next to nothing about it, and such were the stirring events in Virginia in 1863 that even our elderly folk, or the majority of them, have but a vague idea of what took place there. Chickamauga was a great Confederate victory, but the fruits of it were lost in our defeat at Chattanooga, two months later.

The Century Dictionary gives the following under the heading of Chickamauga: A small river, which joins the Tennessee about seven miles above Chattanooga. Near it, September 19, 1863, the Confederates (about 55,000, under Bragg), defeated the Federals (50,000-60,000) under Rosecrans. Loss of the Federals, 15,521; of the Confederates, 17,804.

Alcock Stephen, however, in his history, puts the Federal loss at 18,000 and the Confederate loss at 15,000. The Confederates captured thirty-six guns and 2,000 small arms. Rosecrans fell back to Chattanooga, where he was relieved of command by Grant, who was flushed with his Vicksburg victory, and who brought valuable reinforcements with him.

As to the "battle of Chattanooga," the Century Dictionary says that it was "a series of engagements near Chattanooga, November 22-25, 1863. The Federals (about 60,000, under Bragg), defeated the Confederates (40,000-50,000), under Bragg. Loss of the Federals, 5,656; of Confederates, 8,681 (6,142 prisoners)."

Mr. Stephens—who by the way was not partial to Bragg—says that Bragg was defeated, "not by superior numbers, but by superior tactics." He was defeated because he was out-generalled. He committed his first mistake when he detached Longstreet, with his command, and sent him to operate against Burnside, at Knoxville. He committed his second mistake when he weakened his centre and moved his troops to the right to operate against Sherman. Bragg retreated from Chattanooga towards Ringgold, Ga., and soon afterwards came into command by General Joseph E. Johnston.

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This movement of Tillman's was angrily antagonized in the convention, among others by Tillman's brother, who declared that it originated in Senator Tillman's spite against General Butler.

But Senator Tillman had his way.

He showed in the South Carolina constitutional convention on Monday, the convention had previously resolved to form a new county out of Edgefield, and in the absence of Tillman had determined to name it Butler, after that well known family. Tillman returned to the convention and moved to change the name from Butler to Saluda.

To-day will be the day of all days in the Carpet Department. The entire stock will be ready. The name and fame of this Carpet Department of ours is reaching to all corners of Virginia. Carpet selling on a dry-goods basis may be novel, but it's taking. When you come to figure the cost of carpeting your house you'll appreciate the method.

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